



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Railroad Museum Volunteers Wanted

*Sign Up Today for October Volunteer Class and "Help Keep the Trains Rolling"
At America's Most Popular Railroad Museum*

SACRAMENTO – On Saturday, October 17, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) will begin Volunteer Training for fall 2009. The Museum is recruiting for men and women (18 or older) who are interested in communicating the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. Applications are due on Friday, September 25. Advance interviews, required for all participants, will be held in early October.

Anyone who has ever visited the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento SHP is familiar with the Museum's docents. Dressed in railroad garb or other period attire, these trained volunteers answer questions and discuss history with guests. There are many other volunteers, too. In fact, during 2008, more than 600 men and women were active with the Railroad Museum's programs—including weekend steam train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. Since the Museum's 1976 inception, volunteers have contributed more than two million hours of service!

As part of their training, candidates are encouraged to consider participating in one or more Museum programs. For example, volunteers may choose to serve as docents and Museum tour guides; participate in hands-on, interactive educational programs for school groups; become involved with train operations on the Sacramento Southern Railroad; or orient visitors at Old Sacramento State Historic Park's historic Eagle Theatre and Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store. Volunteer training represents a serious commitment, but the hours are flexible—and the rewards can be tremendous.

A background in history is not required. In fact, most of the volunteers began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush! As they become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations about the Museum. There are no fees charged. Perks for active volunteers include free parking while on duty, invitation to an annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet, complimentary Museum membership, and the chance to meet new, interesting people. A minimum annual commitment of 84 hours is required for active Museum volunteers.

For more details about volunteering at the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park or to sign up for an interview, please contact Volunteer Training Coordinator Theresa Gonsolis at 916-324-7593 or email at tgonsolis@parks.ca.gov. For an online application, visit www.parks.ca.gov/capitaldistrict.

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org, or call (916) 445-6645.

For More Events, Visit www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict